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-U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS CLOSING BEIRUT AIRPORT EXCEEDS  
"GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY"

WASHINGTON -(DJ)--ALTHOUGH THE WHITE HOUSE  
ANNOUNCED PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN IS CONSIDERING ACTIONS  
THAT WOULD CLOSE DOWN BEIRUT AIRPORT AND CUT OFF GOODS AND  
SERVICES TO THE LEBANESE CAPITAL IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE  
PRESSURE FOR THE RELEASE OF 40 AMERICAN HOSTAGES, AN  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL LATER VOICED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE  
ABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO CLOSE DOWN THE LEBANESE  
AIRPORT.

EDWARD MARKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COUNTER TERRORISM AT  
THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, SAID CLOSING THE BEIRUT AIRPORT  
"EXCEEDS THE ABILITY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT."

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